



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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4 JULY 1966

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1. South Vietnam

[REDACTED] Ky will probably announce his cabinet changes tomorrow. It is expected that several more Catholics will be given ministerial rank; the moderate Buddhist element in Saigon is said to be considerably disturbed by these prospects.

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These Buddhists are afraid that the changes may bring a switch from an anti-struggle or anti - Tri Quang attitude in the government to outright opposition to all organized Buddhism.

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2. Laos

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3. Soviet Union

On Friday a Swedish foreign ministry official read Ambassador Parsons the letter from Kosygin to Erlander--very polite in tone--cancelling the former's July visit to Sweden.

[redacted] the "unforeseen circumstances" keeping Kosygin in the Soviet Union were said to be the meeting on 2 August of the Supreme Soviet, for which he must prepare. The Swedish official noted the change in dates of Gromyko's visit to Japan and the expedited return of Polyansky from Canada as confirmation of Kosygin's excuse.

We do not yet have any firm indication of what all the rush is about. However, there are indications that the party Central Committee may meet in mid-July. If so, we may be able to glean from this what the Supreme Soviet will consider.

4. Yugoslavia

[redacted] the Yugoslav party meeting which purged Aleksandar Rankovic [redacted] strongly implied that the former security chief was ousted because, as Tito's proclaimed heir apparent, he tried to amass too much power prior to Tito's actual demise.

It has been publicly announced that the coming purge will be widespread, affecting not only the security apparatus but also the federal and republican levels of both the party and government.

5. France

De Gaulle's visit to Russia produced almost nothing unexpected. Our embassy in Moscow says he stirred the atmosphere, but left the world situation basically where he found it.

Moscow nevertheless probably is pleased with the visit. By equally blaming both east and west for the cold war, upholding the Soviet thesis of coexistence, and plugging the idea that a European settlement is primarily a matter for Europeans, De Gaulle advanced important Soviet objectives.

He also, however, appears to have defended essential Western interests in his talks with Soviet leaders, knocking down the idea of recognition of East Germany and giving the Soviets no encouragement about a European security conference.

Those hoping for discernible progress toward an east-west detente were disappointed. As a Paris newspaper said, "the icebreaker was hard at work for eleven days, but the icepack hardly seems seriously chipped."

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